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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 02372.0099-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Philip James IONS and Mark HAYTON

National Stage of International Application No.
PCT/AU2005/000390 Under 35 U.S.C. 371

Application No.: 10/593,063

Filed: September 15, 2006

For: DIRECT SMELTING PLANT

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)
) Group Art Unit: 1742
)
)
) Examiner: (Unknown)
)
)
) Confirmation No. 6465
)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

STATUS INQUIRY

According to our records, the above-identified application is pending. This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390, and was filed on September 15, 2006 in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Enclosed are copies of the stamped post card receipts. To date, no other communication has been received by this office. A review of the status of this application in PAIR revealed that this "Application Undergoing Preexam Processing."

In view of these circumstances, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests that the Office advise him of the status of this application as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 8, 2008

By: Stephen L. Peterson
Stephen L. Peterson
Reg. No. 26,325

PLEASE STAMP TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FOLLOWING:

National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390 under 35 U.S.C. 371, for DIRECT SMELTING PLANT

Inventor(s): Philip James IONS and Mark HAYTON

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1. Check in the amount of \$1050.00
2. Transmittal Letter concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. (Duplicate)
3. First Preliminary Amendment.
4. Copy of International application as filed comprising 20 sheets, including 23 claims, and 15 sheets of drawings.
5. Information Disclosure Statement and Information Disclosure Citation, PTO-SB-08 with documents attached.
6. Cover page of WIPO Publication No. WO 2005/090613 A1
7. Copy of International Search Report from the Australian Patent Office

Dated September 15, 2006
Docket No.: 02372.0099
CUSTOMER NUMBER: 22,852
EFC/FPD/gah Mail Drop 610A

(Due Date: September 17, 2006)



*OK'd
9/16/06 JDC*

IAP7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 SEP 2006'

**PLEASE ACCORD THIS APPLICATION A U.S. SERIAL NUMBER AND
CONFIRM DATE OF SUBMISSION OF THE APPENDED PAPERS**

National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390 under 35 U.S.C. 371.

Inventors: Philip James IONS et al.

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SERIAL NO.: **10/593063**

SUBMISSION DATE:

MP

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